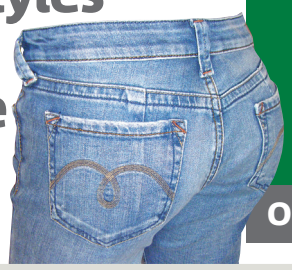
Style pg 12

Hot styles that shape your body



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City boots public from talks

Transit union vows to wait out in-camera council meeting set to reconvene today

TIM WIECLAWSKI
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After meeting behind closed doors for more than nine "very productive" hours yesterday, city council will meet again today to discuss the 37-day-old transit strike.

"Council appreciates how important this issue is to the public, and we assure you that we are committed to reaching a negotiated settlement as soon as possible," said Mayor Larry O'Brien.

The in-camera session consisted of numerous presentations and questioning, O'Brien said. Today's meeting will also begin behind closed doors.

Representatives of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 279 were hoping to present their side of the scheduling issue, which has become a primary sticking points in negotiations, but waited until 8:45 p.m. when the meeting recessed.

Union turnout

• Around 100 members of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 279 turned out at the beginning of the meeting.

"We still don't know if they want to hear from us, so we'll come back tomorrow," said ATU scheduling representative Craig Watson.

When council voted to remove the public from the gallery, several people waited outside council chambers shouting "Shame!" while a few Ottawa police officers stood by the group.

Slowly, senior union members moved upset coworkers to Jean Pigott Hall.

"We were all here to voice our opinions and listen in," said Tony Mitchell, a driver with 29 years' experience. "I was upset about council kicking everybody out and having a closed session."

Outside council chambers, ATU 279 president Andre Cornellier said the union was anxious to get back to the bargaining table and blamed the city for leaving the buses parked for more than a month.

"That is their responsibility to the taxpayers, to the people that are suffering, to the businesses. Don't blame the union," he said. "We are here to fight for our right to bargain in good faith and that's what we're doing."

ShareYourViews
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Nortel workers in dark after bankruptcy filing

TRACEY TONG
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SEAN KILPATRICK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

An employee leaves Nortel's Carling campus in Ottawa yesterday. Nortel, which employs 4,300 in Ottawa, filed for bankruptcy protection.

JOBS Nortel Networks Corp. is seeking bankruptcy protection in the U.S. and Canada, but it remains to be seen how local jobs with the telecommunications firm will be affected.

The company said yesterday it will file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in a Delaware court and under the Companies' Creditors Arrangements Act protection in Canada.

While other subsidiaries were expected to make similar filings in Europe, the company hasn't said yet how operations in Ottawa will be affected, said Karen Monaghan, a Nortel spokeswoman working out of Ottawa. The Ottawa location, which employs 4,300 people, is still the heart of Nortel's research and development, said Monaghan.

"All of Nortel's product range is represented in Ottawa because this is such a major (research and development) location," she said.

"We're very committed to the region. Nortel will be putting a business plan in place and until that's done, we don't have further information."

Still, it's likely that "as we go through restructuring, there will be an impact on jobs," she said.

"We've initiated the process to strengthen the business," said Nortel spokesman Mohammed Nakhooda yesterday. "It's expected that Nortel's day-to-day operations will continue without interruption. We do anticipate as a part of restructuring there will be an impact on employees ... but there is no employee reduction or impact as a part of today's announcement."

While the company began a process to transform Nortel in 2005, the global financial crisis has created more challenges, the company said in a release.

"Nortel must be put on a sound financial footing once and for all," Nortel president and CEO Mike Zafirovski said.

MORE COVERAGE PG 7

Childhood diet, obesity linked

STUDY Research shows childhood diets may have an influence on adult obesity. Adults struggling to keep the weight off might have eaten too many fatty foods when they were toddlers, a University of Calgary study suggests.

Researcher Raylene Reimer said pre-natal and early childhood diets influence the genes that control how bodies store and use nutrients, which influences future diabetes and obesity risks.

METRO CANADA

World pg 5

Israel rejects truce terms

Food pg 11

Sea-friendly fish choices

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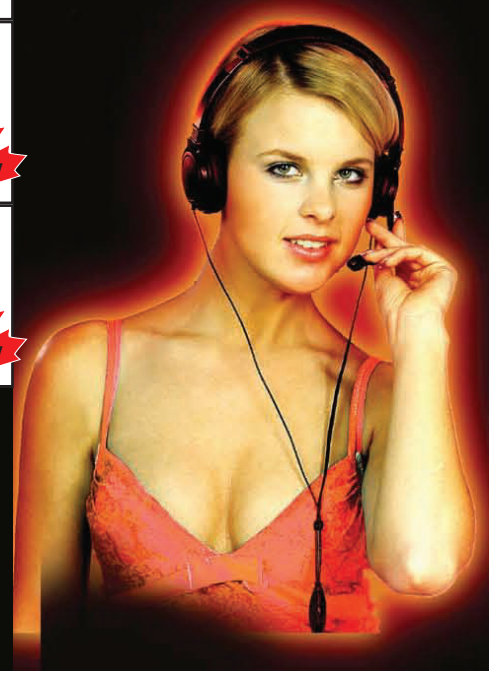

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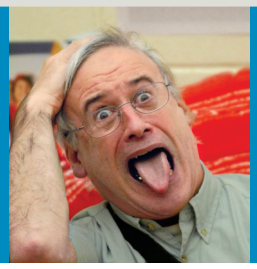
Report calls for clinic to help youths living on the street
A recent report by the Youth Services Bureau of Ottawa stated that a clinic would dramatically improve care for street-involved youth and save the health-care system up to $265,000 in the first year by reducing risks and deferring emergency room visits. METRO OTTAWA

Local



Kids' author Munsch makes a visit

A lucky family will be getting a visit from Canadian children's author Robert Munsch, left, when he visits Ottawa this Saturday. The Kicknosway family won the fourth annual Munsch at Home contest for Family Literacy Day and will be getting a visit from Munsch at the Minwaashin Lodge, where the author of Love You Forever and the Paper Bag Princess will be telling a few of his classic stories. METRO OTTAWA

Genies coming to town

City to host the best in Canada's film industry in April

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Ottawa is about to have a brush with celebrity. The nation's capital will host an awards ceremony to celebrate the best in Canada's film industry this spring.

Ottawa will host the 29th annual Genie Awards at the Canadian Aviation Museum on April 4, the National Capital Commission announced yesterday.

It will be the first time that the event will be held in Ottawa.

In addition to having celebrities come to Ottawa — Genie Award nominees will be announced in early February — having the show here is an opportunity to have Canadians from across the country develop a better appreciation for the capital, said Kathryn Keyes, spokeswoman for the NCC.

"The Genie Awards have grown and matured into a true national celebration. So it's fitting that Ottawa, the nation's capital, should host our celebration of Canada's finest films and filmmakers."
Sara Morton

It's estimated that between 1.2 million and 2.4 million people will tune into the live broadcast of the event, which will include shots of landmarks around the national capital region, Keyes said.

The event will also bring to Ottawa about 1,000 of the country's most influential industry professionals, said Keyes.

"The Genie Awards have grown and matured into a true national celebration," said Sara Morton, CEO of the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television. "So it's fitting that Ottawa, the nation's capital, should host our celebration of Canada's finest films and filmmakers."

"This event is a perfect opportunity to celebrate excellence in Canadian cinema in the nation's capital," said NCC CEO Marie Lemay. "Over the coming months, the support and contributions of numerous public and private sector partners will help ensure that this event will shine a spotlight on the region."

Carleton set to launch African studies program

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UNIVERSITY A new program at Carleton University will generate interest about a continent that generally isn't well understood.

This fall, the university will be launching a new institute and academic programs in African studies.

"I think there's an interest in the long ties between Canada and Africa," said Blair Rutherford, director of the Institute of African Studies.

"There's such a rich history and culture in the continent. Unfortunately, the pop-culture representation of Africa portrays the culture as victims of starvation and poverty and perpetrators of violence and corruption.

"But there's a huge part of the continent that's not in the midst of violence and poverty and people there live thriving lives based on tradition," he added. "There's a richness, with diverse cinema, literature and music — and not many people know about it."

The program will also offer students a window into the history, geography and economics of Africa and explores critical issues the continent is facing, such as poverty, political leadership, HIV/AIDS, war and unequal trading relationships with wealthy countries.

The university is already offering two of the courses in the program, which have waiting lists to get in.

City wants other crossing studied

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BRIDGE City council is recommending that the National Capital Commission study a second interprovincial crossing location on top of the Kettle Island site recommended in the consultant's report released earlier this year.

The motion passed by a margin of 12 to 11 yesterday, but councillors opposed to the second location of Lower Duck Island have requested that it be reconsidered at the next city council meeting in two weeks' time.

"The community is solidly behind Kettle Island," said Orleans Coun. Bob Monette. "Putting it at Lower Duck Island is putting it before the split. Nobody in Orleans is interested in doing that."

Students rally for better accessibility

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UOTTAWA In the best of conditions, it can be a challenge to get around.

But with all the snow this winter, Jess Ferencz has found it to be especially trying.

"Last week, we had a huge snowfall and I was stuck in a snowbank," said Ferencz, a third-year student at the University of Ottawa who uses a wheelchair. "I'm also in residence and I've been stuck in my room all weekend because of the snow. If the snow gets too bad, I can't go to class."

The university needs a better system for snow removal around campus to improve accessibility, she said.

Ferencz was one of 30 students gathered at Tabaret Hall yesterday for a demonstration to remind administration that it is their responsibility to make the campus accessible. They also presented a shovel with the uOttawa logo to administration.

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

Virginie Corneau St-Hilaire, left, and Seamus Wolfe took part in a demonstration yesterday to remind University of Ottawa administration that accessibility on campus is its responsibility.

The demonstration in the main stairway of the hall was to give students and staff an idea of how difficult it is for students with disabilities every day, said Seamus Wolfe, vice-president of university affairs of the Student Federation of the University of Ottawa.

Wolfe said the student federation constantly hears how students using wheelchairs get stuck in the snow between buildings, or are unable to leave the residences because snow hasn't been cleared.

He also added that students are missing classes, and in some cases, exams, because they are unable to get through the snow.

"This has been going on for a while," said Wolfe, who said the issue was first brought up about two years ago. "And we've never seen any real changes."

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video George and Laura Bush reflect on life in the White House at **metronews.ca/world**

Video Kabul's "Bush Bazaar" is the one-stop shop for goods from a nearby U.S. base at **metronews.ca/world**

Love Bytes Tips for hot dates on cold nights at **metronews.ca**

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Canadians still trapped in Gaza

Officials in Ottawa are still working on evacuating nearly three dozen Canadians from the Gaza Strip, the Foreign Affairs Department says. In a statement released Tuesday night, the department said there are still 34 Canadians who have indicated they want to leave the troubled region. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Canada

Oilsands on the agenda

Alberta's oilsands, a vast oil source that critics say comes at a big environmental cost, will be on the agenda when Barack Obama, left, visits Canada on his first foreign trip as U.S. president, said Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Harper told a Calgary radio station that he has been in touch with officials from Obama's administration even as the president-elect prepares for his inauguration next Tuesday. REUTERS

Tories feel heat over climate

Ottawa must plan to work with Obama's proposed environment strategy

Don't tell Canada's Environment minister about "hope" and "change," the rallying cries of Barack Obama's U.S. election victory.

In the months to come, Jim Prentice must steer a complex proposal to essentially harmonize his government's much-criticized climate-change plan with the one proposed by the Obama administration. The result will be a North American market for trading greenhouse-gas emissions credits, giving companies the incentive to cut their carbon footprint.

"The election of Mr. Obama and the determination and the clarity with which he has spoken on climate change really is a fundamental change."
Environment Minister Jim Prentice

To do that, Prentice will have to change considerably the Tories' environment blueprint and hope that the hoopla over Washington's re-engagement in the global warming fight will bring the Conservatives the political breathing room they have been denied for the last three years.

"The election of Mr. Obama and the determination and the clarity with which he has spoken on climate change really is a fundamental change in terms of the situation," Prentice said Monday.

"I think it's fair to say that we are now in a position where the policy framework we're talking about as Canadians and the policy framework the new president has spoken about are very consistent."

Prentice's view is that Obama's America has come around to the Tory way of thinking on climate change.

But faced with a new U.S. administration that is stacked with climate-change fundamentalists — people on a first-name basis with former vice-president Al Gore — it will be up to Ottawa to find religion.

The Obama team includes retired Marine Gen. James Jones, the proposed national security adviser, who touts the primacy of energy security and is well connected in Alberta's oilsands. But it appears more weighted with appointees like climate czar Carol Browner, who dubbed President George W. Bush's team "the worst environmental administration ever."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Retraining program a 'tough' sell

JOBS Ontario's troubled Second Career retraining program remains a "tough" sell to unemployed workers despite recent changes, Premier Dalton McGuinty acknowledges.

The program, designed for 20,000 laid-off workers, has enrolled just 3,300 people despite the disappearance of more than 60,000 jobs in the province since November.

McGuinty said he understands why it's difficult for Ontarians who have lost their jobs to get into a two-year retraining program that offers up to $28,000 in government money to cover tuition, travel and living expenses.

"That's something we're struggling with," he said in Mississauga, where he announced a $7.7-million grant to help create 133 jobs over five years at aerospace company Cyclone Manufacturing, which makes parts for airliners and the defence industry.

Checklist makes operations safer: Study

HEALTH Two minutes and a piece of paper could launch a revolution in medicine.

A seemingly simple safety check during major operations has the power to prevent millions of people around the world from suffering surgical complications, researchers reported yesterday. Safety experts are pushing for hospitals to adopt the safety checklist to ensure surgeons and their teams save lives even before they pick up a scalpel.

All the points seem simple, but when put together they become something much bigger, says Bryce Taylor, surgeon-in-chief at Toronto's University Health Network. The study, published online yesterday in the New England Journal of Medicine, found using the checklist reduced surgical complications by four per cent. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

19-point list

- The 19-point list checks items as basic as the patient's name and condition, confirms whether all medical images are present and enough blood is on hand, and even asks surgical team members to introduce themselves.

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Heroes **Obama meets Spidey**

PLANET MAURIE

Amazing Spider-Man No. 583, featuring a story about U.S. president-elect Barack Obama, hit the shelves of North American comic book shops yesterday. George Zotti, manager of a comic shop in Toronto, says his store sold out in 20 minutes. Inset: Alternate cover featuring Obama.

No date yet for Tory byelection

POLITICS Voters in the cottage-country riding where Progressive Conservative Leader John Tory hopes to get elected will have to wait a little longer for a by-election date.

"I think we should allow the parties time to nominate candidates."
Dalton McGuinty

The vote won't be set right away so other parties can prepare for what will be a closely watched race in Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock, Premier Dalton McGuinty says.

"I think we should allow the parties time to nominate candidates," he said yesterday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

CAMBODIA A Canadian man has been charged with sexually abusing two Cambodian girls aged 10 and 12, CBC News Online reports. Daniel Lavigne, 68, of Quebec was charged yesterday with having sexual intercourse and committing indecent acts with minors, officials said.

OLYMPICS The B.C. legislature will be recalled as soon as possible to deal with Vancouver's request for an amendment to the city charter so that it can borrow money to complete the Olympic athletes village, Premier Gordon Campbell said yesterday, CBC News Online reports. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Facebook postings lead to arrest of suspected New Zealand burglar
New Zealand police have arrested an alleged safe burglar by using the social networking website Facebook to track him down. Police posted security-camera footage and pictures showing the man's face as he allegedly tried to break into the safe of a local tavern on Monday, and the suspect was identified by viewers on the site. REUTERS

World

Cuomo over Kennedy: Poll

More New Yorkers prefer state Attorney General Andrew Cuomo over Caroline Kennedy to fill Hillary Clinton's U.S. Senate seat, according to a poll released yesterday. Kennedy, the daughter of slain president John F. Kennedy, and Cuomo, the son of former New York governor Mario Cuomo, are considered top contenders to succeed Clinton, who has been nominated to serve as U.S. secretary of state. REUTERS

Israel rebuffs limited truce

Israel said yesterday it would not agree to a temporary ceasefire in the Gaza Strip that Hamas could use to rearm, underscoring the gap between the two sides in Egyptian-brokered talks.

Hamas has rejected an open-ended truce, seeking instead a more limited six-month agreement that could be renewed, according to Arab diplomats.

"Israel will not accept a situation where Hamas gets a temporary period of quiet just to rearm and regroup and that ends with further rocket barrages on Israel," said Mark Regev, spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

"Israel seeks a durable quiet that contains a total absence of hostile fire from Gaza into Israel and a working mechanism to prevent Hamas from rearming."

Olmert's office said defence official Amos Gilad would travel to Cairo today for talks on a ceasefire after 19 days of fighting in which more than 1,000 Palestinians have been killed, along with at least 13 Israelis. REUTERS

Venezuela severs ties

- Venezuela has cut ties with Israel in protest over Israel's military offensive in the Gaza Strip, the country's foreign ministry said yesterday.
- President Hugo Chavez expelled Israel's ambassador days ago over the same issue.

Bin Laden calls for jihad over Gaza strikes

MIDDLE EAST Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden called for jihad against the Israeli offensive in Gaza in an audio tape that appeared on Islamist websites yesterday.

The Saudi-born militant said the global financial crisis had exposed the waning U.S. influence in world affairs and would in turn weaken its ally Israel.

"Our brothers in Palestine, you have suffered a lot ... the Muslims sympathize with you in what they see and hear. We, the mujahideen, sympathize with you also," bin Laden said. "We are with you and we will not let you down. Our fate is tied to yours in fighting the Crusader-Zionist coalition, in fighting until victory or martyrdom."

The 19-day-old Israeli offensive to crush the Islamist Hamas movement in Gaza has caused widespread anger among ordinary Arabs and Muslims.

In Washington, the White House said the tape showed bin Laden's isolation. "It appears this tape demonstrates his isolation and continued attempts to remain relevant at a time when al Qaeda's ideology, mission, and agenda are being questioned and challenged throughout the world," White House spokesman Gordon Johndroe said. REUTERS

INTELCENTER HANDOUT / REUTERS

This handout from IntelCenter shows an Internet screen grab captured yesterday of Osama bin Laden. In an online audio message released on Islamist websites, the al Qaeda leader called for jihad (holy struggle) over the Israeli offensive in Gaza.

News in brief

POLAND Authorities have unearthed the remains of 1,800 bodies and expect to find more in a mass grave believed to date back to the final days of the Second World War. The site is in a corner of northern Poland that was part of Germany until 1945. Authorities suspect the remains are of ethnic German civilians, at least some of whom were probably killed by advancing Soviet forces.

ITALY Police yesterday arrested a leader of the powerful Naples mafia who is suspected of ordering the killing of six African immigrants. Investigators believe Giuseppe Setola is a boss of the Camorra, a crime organization based in the southern Campania region.

RESCUE Greece launched a major rescue operation in the Aegean yesterday to save 53 illegal migrants whose ship was threatened by rough seas. The rescue, which lasted more than seven hours, was one of the biggest it had launched in recent years. REUTERS

Massive traffic crashes website for Aussie island caretaker job

TOURISM The chance to be the caretaker of a tiny tropical island in Australia has sparked so much interest that a rush of applications crashed the website advertising the post.

The job, which offers a salary of $105,000 to spend six months on the Great Barrier Reef island of Hamilton, has been inundated with hundreds of thousands of prospective candidates.

An official from the state of Queensland, which is offering the position, said the job was created as an antidote to the global economic slump and was being advertised in 18 countries, including the United States and China.

Duties for the so-called "best job in the world" include feeding ocean fish, cleaning a pool and collecting deliveries of mail that arrive by plane. The successful candidate will have to go scuba diving, snorkeling and hiking and enjoy at least 25 nearby resorts.

No skills, nor experience is needed, and there is no age requirement. The job starts in July. REUTERS

'World's best job'

- For more information, visit Tourism Queensland's website for the position at islandreefjob.com.

Pilot wanted on fraud charges arrested after bailing from plane

CRIME U.S. marshals have arrested a pilot accused of parachuting out of his plane and letting it crash in an apparent attempt to avoid financial fraud prosecution by faking his death, an investigator said Tuesday.

Marcus Schrenker, 38, was arrested late on Tuesday in the north Florida town of Quincy, Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Sgt. Scott Haines said by e-mail.

Schrenker was the only person aboard the plane that took off for Florida on Sunday from Anderson, Ind. Investigators said that as the plane flew over Alabama, the pilot made a fake emergency call, then put the plane on autopilot and parachuted out.

The empty plane crashed in a swampy area near the northwest Florida city of Milton. No one was injured and no structures were damaged.

Schrenker parachuted to the ground near Harpersville, Ala., on Sunday night, got a police officer to give him a ride to a hotel and then fled, investigators said. He had stashed a motorcycle near that hotel and got away before local police learned of the crash.

Schrenker was wanted in Indiana on fraud charges. REUTERS

Drunk worker given back job by court

PERU The country's top court has ruled that workers cannot be fired for being drunk on the job, a decision the government's labour ministry criticized yesterday for setting a dangerous precedent.

The court ordered that Pablo Cayo Mendoza be given his job back as a janitor for the municipality of Chorrillos, a suburb of Lima, which fired him for being intoxicated while at work.

The firing was excessive because Cayo could still speak and write, and he did not hurt anybody, justice Fernando Calle said. REUTERS

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Comment & Views

Comment

Eulogy for coalition

Tactic had a short, happy life in response to Tory ineptitude

Home&Abroad

Andrew Cohen

Canada & world insight

There is important news from Quebec this week. Gilles Duceppe, the leader of the Bloc Québécois, says that reports of the death of the coalition are greatly exaggerated.

He denies that it has been weakened by the surprising emergence of Michael Ignatieff as interim Liberal leader. And he has been unfazed by a poll that shows more Canadians would prefer an election than a coalition government.

So he thinks the coalition is solid, sensible and viable. No one should ever say that Duceppe doesn't have a sense of humour.

The coalition? Do you remember the coalition?

It was created by the Bloc, the New Democrats and the Liberals before Christmas. It was a smart response to the government's ineptitude — from its paralysis on the economy (no stimulus, no deficit) to ending public subsidies for political parties (bankrupting the opposition).

It had a short, happy life, the coalition did, and it served its purpose brilliantly. It unified and mobilized the opposition against an arrogant government and forced its retreat. It humbled Stephen Harper, if that is possible.

It forced the intervention of the Governor General, who allowed the prime minister to prorogue Parliament and avoid a vote of non-confidence that he would have lost. And it forced the Liberals immediately to oust Stéphane Dion, cancel their long leadership race and crown Ignatieff. Not bad.

It unified and mobilized the opposition against an arrogant government and forced its retreat.

But that's history now. Today, six weeks on, if Harper were to seek an election from the Governor General — rather than have her request that the opposition parties form a government — he would get an election that he would probably win.

But Harper also knows the risks of an early election. He has hurt himself in Quebec, leaving an opening for a reinvigorated Liberal party. That's why he has reversed himself so dramatically on the economy, preparing a strong stimulus package with a swelling deficit.

This won't be enough for Duceppe, or for the New Democrats, who have the luxury of opposing it. But it will be more than enough for Ignatieff, the hawks in his camp notwithstanding.

The Liberals will support the Conservatives, the budget will pass, and the government will govern. The Liberals will begin to renew themselves, which will take time.

The coalition was always more a tactic than a strategy, a spicy Christmas confection, but it's now as dead as Jacob Marley.

Andrew Cohen teaches journalism at Carleton University. He is the author of Extraordinary Canadians: Lester B. Pearson.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Mother and daughter relationships — revised

Georgie Binks

Is it my imagination, or are there more mother/daughter duos out there these days who more closely resemble daughter/daughter teams? The only way to tell them apart is by their foreheads. Mom's brow is firm, courtesy botox, while her daughter can still scrunch hers up in displeasure.

With nips, tucks, workouts, hair colouring and a lack of great clothes for women over 50 (so we borrow our daughter's), young women have to feel their mothers breathing down, not just theirs, but their boyfriend's necks. In my day, unless your mom was Mrs. Robinson, your boyfriend fantasized about her baking, not her.

One of my girlfriends, 57, who works out, sports a great hairdo and cool wardrobe, boasts, "I love when I'm with my 30-something daughter and they think we're sisters — even better if that happens with my 21-year-old."

Naturally, daughters can't stand it. Drop dead gorgeous, Samantha, 21, says, "Guys told me all through high school they loved my mom and it really bothered me."

My own daughter, 21, après one too many sister remarks, snaps, "What? Do I look like a 50-year-old woman?"

So what's a mom to do? Cancel the gym membership and embrace her outer greyness? No, says Dr. Karyl McBride, author of Will I Ever Be Good Enough? Healing the Daughters of Narcissistic Mothers. "If a mother takes good care of herself and doesn't age as much, she can be a good role model for her daughter."

Just because you look like her best friend, don't try filling the role, cautions McBride.

"These days, mothers and daughters share information about dates and sex. It isn't appropriate. A daughter needs to be able to look up to the mother as the parental figure."

Recently, I read that Kate Hudson had felt intimidated by her mother Goldie Hawn when she was younger. Most of us aren't as successful or as gorgeous as Goldie, so, hopefully, our daughters wouldn't feel that way, nor would we want them to.

In my own house, officially there's no competition. However, my daughter, unofficial winner of the swimsuit competition, is now taking me on professionally, which I did not see coming. Recently, I told her a story idea of mine, and she told me she was going to write about it for her school newspaper.

Shocked, I told her, "You can't. It's my idea."

"Don't you know you never tell another reporter your story ideas?"

There's only one way to win this, I figure.

Wait until those great new jeans are all alone in your closet and you're out. We're the same size, after all.

Just like sisters.

Georgie Binks is a freelance writer who writes for newspapers, magazines and websites.

Letters

Unions are meant to fight for rights, not perks

The origin of unions, as far as I learned in grade school, was during the Industrial Revolution as a means to combat unfair and inhumane working conditions by greedy business/factory owners. Today, unions are meant to fight for the "rights" of their constituents.

In the OC Transpo versus the City of Ottawa battle, it does not appear the union is doing this. At what point in time did seniority become a right rather than a perk? And I believe breaks are legislated requirements for working more than five hours — not at the end of each bus run.

Fundamentally, the city is stating that it can run a more efficient and cost-effective program if it is given more control over scheduling. In return for this, the city is offering monetary compensation.

The union is instead fighting for perks for the drivers — perks that end up being half the reason why OC Transpo is one of the worst public transit systems I have ever taken.

When did unions start fighting for perks for a few of their members, rather than for the rights of all of their members?

How dare the city offer more money in compensation for a change in working conditions, especially during a major economic recession.

TRAVIS MARTIN, OTTAWA

Making consensual polygamy illegal infringes on civil rights

I'm not a polygamist. Frankly, one wife is more than enough for me. But I don't think it should be illegal.

It's a way of living that goes against our country's dominant religious moral beliefs, but that's no reason to make it illegal.

Hopefully, that law will go out the door like so many other antiquated laws that go against our civil rights, like the now abolished laws against interracial marriage in the United States, or the continuing debate against gay marriage.

I don't see what making consensual polygamy illegal does, other than infringe on people's civil rights to live their lives according to their religious or cultural beliefs.

GIAN MANCUSO, TORONTO

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: ottawaletters@metronews.ca
Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

World's 2nd richest man gets domain name back for free
The world's second richest man, Mexican tycoon Carlos Slim Helu, won control of a web address in his name (www.carlosslimhelu.com) for free yesterday. An arbitrator ruled the site that an Indonesian had tried to sell him for $55 million US was registered in bad faith. REUTERS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Slowdown hits Canadian media firms

MEDIA The economic slowdown has squeezed advertising spending and hurt quarterly financial results for Canadian media companies, triggering warnings of weaker results and credit problems.

Canwest Global Communications, which owns newspapers in every large urban market in Canada along with the country's Global television network, said yesterday it may fall short of certain financial covenants in its credit facilities if negative economic conditions persist.

Also yesterday, media and entertainment company Corus Entertainment lowered its forecasts for its fiscal year 2009 due to a slowdown in ad revenue.

REUTERS

Magna denies eyeing Chrysler

AUTOS Magna International has denied it is talking to struggling Chrysler LLC about buying any piece of the automaker, including the Jeep brand. Industry sources say Chrysler is holding discussions with Renault-Nissan and Magna about the sales of assets.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ottawa pledges to help rescue Nortel

The federal government pledged yesterday to help Nortel Networks Corp. emerge from bankruptcy protection.

"The government of Canada appreciates the importance of the telecommunications industry to our economy and will continue to work with Nortel during its restructuring through Export Development Canada," said Industry Minister Tony Clement.

The government agency has agreed to provide up to $30 million in short-term financing. EDC spokesman Phil Taylor said the agency's risk tolerance was higher than that of banks, but said its financing would not amount to a bailout.

"The government ... will continue to work with Nortel during its restructuring."
Tony Clement

Nortel, North America's biggest telephone equipment maker, filed for bankruptcy yesterday, hoping to save a once highflying business whose decadelong decline has accelerated with the global economic crisis.

Analysts said Nortel will have to shed assets.

A sharp slowdown in many of Nortel's major markets, especially the United States, has exacerbated its long-standing problems competing with low-cost rivals. REUTERS

Putin the painter **Art for charity**

ALEXANDER DEMIANCHUK/REUTERS

Women hold up a painting by Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin at a hotel in St. Petersburg yesterday. Putin's painting will be put up for auction for charity on Saturday, alongside two dozen other pictures by Russian celebrities.

CAW inks deal with Air Canada

AIRLINES The Canadian Auto Workers union said yesterday it has reached three-year tentative contract agreements with Air Canada and Groupe Aeroplan covering around 5,000 customer service and sales agents.

CAW President Ken Lewenza said the deal includes a small wage increase and it gives employees of Aeroplan a two-year window to return to former sister company Air Canada if they want, or vice versa. REUTERS

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Dearest Ottawa, January, 2009
It has been a long time since we last corresponded.
We've been through a lot together - dear Queen Victoria passed on, we experienced two World Wars and weathered through a Great Depression. The Ottawa Senators played their first game, women earned the right to vote and personal computers became household necessities.
Through it all, we've both evolved with the times while preserving our heritage and I am pleased to remain a close companion of yours.
The Arts are still an integral part of your culture and I am delighted to offer an array of seasonal courses and credit programs to suit your needs.
Please don't be a stranger and pay me a visit every now and then – I'd love to show you one of my free galleries and of course, for you it is always complimentary. Do keep in touch – the past 130 years are only the beginning.
All the best in the New Year,
130 OSA EAO OTTAWA SCHOOL OF ART ÉCOLE D'ART D'OTTAWA
35 George St. Ottawa • 613.241.7471 • www.artottawa.ca

Former CFL player paroled

A former CFL player was granted parole after serving time for knowingly exposing women to the virus that causes AIDS. Trevis Smith, an ex-linebacker with the Saskatchewan Roughriders, made his case before the National Parole Board in Saskatchewan, where he is serving a six-year sentence. He'll be released from prison Feb. 25 and deported to the U.S. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

No Viagra needed for high

Brazilian soccer clubs Palmeiras and Gremio denied they are thinking about giving their players Viagra to combat oxygen depletion during upcoming matches in high-altitude locations. Viagra, or sildenafil citrate, suppresses an enzyme that regulates blood flow and allows vessels to relax and widen. METRO NEWS SERVICES

JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

No Mercy: Quebec woman dumps law for poker

MARTY YORK
marty.york@metronews.ca

She is 5-foot-2 and maybe 100 pounds but she is a fireball who burns with rage and, frankly, you don't want to mess with her.

At the poker table, where she ranks as one of the planet's top five female players, Canadian Isabelle Mercier is fiercely determined to kick your butt — figuratively, of course. Mind you, as a trained kick-boxer, there are no guarantees she'll refrain from hoofing your backside literally, as well.

"Fact is, Isabelle scares men," Tori Coxon, chief spokesperson for the wildly successful, multibillion-dollar PokerStars business, says matter-of-factly. "She's tiny, yes, but she's incredibly aggressive, competitive and very intimidating."

And somewhere along the way, this diminutive dynamo from Victoriaville, Que., picked up the nickname "No Mercy." And, well, you get the picture.

"I really think," Mercier says, "that I was born to play a game for a living. I always played games. I played card games with my parents when I was six. I live to play and win. Poker isn't only my job. It's my passion."

Isabelle Mercier gave up a law career for a more lucrative poker career.

And she's good at it. Since finishing second at the Masters Classic in Amsterdam in 2002, Mercier has quietly earned hundreds of thousands of dollars and, according to poker sources, has reached millionaire status — to the point where she recently decided to stop living out of a suitcase.

"I got myself an apartment in Monaco," she reveals. "It's a beautiful place. I'm financially set for life. I'm happy."

It wasn't always like this. Mercier used to be a lawyer. Yes, she gave up her job as a full-time lawyer to become a full-time poker player. After obtaining a law degree at the University of Montreal, she practised commercial law in the city for six months.

And she loathed every second of it.

"It was horrible," she recalls, grimacing. "It was boring. I hated it so much that I'd spend hours in the washroom, sleeping. Every day."

Did her legal background help prepare her for poker?

"Maybe," she says, "but I learned much more about competing from my kick-boxing days."

PokerStars became so enamoured of the hard-nosed brunette and her style that it hired her as an ambassador. At 33 and single, she plays against challengers at www.pokerstars.net, the world's largest online poker room. She also has written a book called Profession: Bluffer. The French version is out; the English version will be published soon.

But it's at the table where she excels, frequently finishing in the money at tournaments around the world, throwing out the occasional F bomb, staring relentlessly at her predominantly male opponents and consistently frightening the bejesus out of them.

"To succeed in poker," she says, "you need confidence and an aggressive personality. Otherwise, forget it."

Give the last word to Coxon:

"There aren't many sports where a woman can match up evenly against men," she says, "but Isabelle does. She's shown that a woman can compete in a man's world."

TAMI CHAPPELL/REUTERS

Daniel Alfredsson celebrates his first-period goal last night.

Two in a row!

NHL RESULT

Senators 3 Thrashers 2

VS

THE SKINNY: The Senators overcame a pair of one-goal deficits to tie the game then ended up edging Atlanta, giving Ottawa two wins in a row.

THE WINNING GOAL: Ottawa forward Dean McAmmond scored his second goal in as many games to give the Senators a 3-2 lead at 14:23 of the second period.

BACK 2 BACK: The Senators won back-to back games for the first time since Dec. 3 and 6 when they defeated Atlanta and the Pittsburgh Penguins.

ONE FOR THE ROAD: With the victory the Senators have now won a total of five games away from Scotiabank Place this season.

THE NEXT GAME: The Senators host the Habs on Saturday night at Scotiabank Place.

MIKE BEASLEY/FOR METRO OTTAWA

Surveying things at the midway point

TheHockeyNews

Ken Campbell

thehockeynews.com

The Ottawa Senators reached the halfway point of their season Tuesday night and the first 41 games of the season have made several things clear:

1. This team will not make the playoffs.
2. Brian Elliot just might be an NHL-calibre goaltender.
3. Martin Gerber is not.

As they embark on the second half of what has become a lame-duck season, let's take a look at the first 41 games.

Most pleasant surprise:

That's a tough one but we'll go with defenceman Filip Kuba, whom the Senators received from Tampa Bay when they were forced to deal Andrei Meszaros. Going into last night's game against Atlanta, he led the team at plus-9 and in ice time at almost 24 minutes per game.

Biggest disappointment:

Players often don't change, but expectations do and that might be the case when it comes to Mike Fisher. Still, four goals from your second-line centre at this point in the season is dismal, no matter how much you're paying him.

Most likely to be dealt:

You're probably expecting me to say Jason Spezza. In fact, there are rumours out there that the Senators are in talks with the Columbus Blue Jackets to deal Spezza for a package that would include goalie Pascal Leclaire.

But Spezza's contract will be almost impossible to move, especially mid-season. A more likely scenario would see the Senators deal someone such as Chris Neil or Antoine Vermette before the trade deadline.

Low point of the season: The moment the plane's wheels touched the runway in Ottawa and every minute since then.

Most startling development:

That a team as talented as the Senators could have the most anemic offence in the NHL.

High point of the season:

Taking three of a possible four points against the Stanley Cup finalist Pittsburgh Penguins in the first two games of the season in Stockholm.

Low point of the season:

The moment the plane's wheels touched the runway in Ottawa and every minute since then.

Reasons for hope:

Erik Karlsson looked pretty good at the world junior championship and the Senators have set themselves up nicely for a top-five pick in a deep draft.

Reasons for despair:

Once one of the top talent producers in the league, the Senators have hit something of a dry run in terms of young talent and there's not much on the horizon. And they have big-money, long-term contracts tied up in three players who are not producing commensurate with their salaries.

Head scratcher:

A team that allowed Zdeno Chara and Wade Redden to walk away for nothing and ran Joe Corvo out of town now needs a puck-moving defenceman.

The Hockey News
thn.com

Internet threats to kids overblown: Report
Worries that the Internet and social networking services like MySpace pose a threat to child safety may be overblown, a new report by the U.S. Internet Safety Technical Task Force suggests. **REUTERS**

Tech Now

Brighter outlook

The economic downturn won't hit the key U.S. consumer electronics industry as hard as some predict. Total 2009 revenues will dip less than one per cent to USD $171 billion. SOURCE: CONSUMER ELECTRONICS ASSOCIATION

Gadgets galore at Vegas show

There's no doubt the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas is big, with over 2,500 companies and 110,000 visitors from Jan. 8 to 11.

However, the show was noticeably smaller from last year. Organizers tried to put a positive spin on it by saying fewer people was good — it means the people who were there are the ones you want to be there. One company executive from Malaysia told me it was important to be there but he brought a team of four people versus 10 last year.

The Electronics Association rates 2008 and 2009 as the worst years for business since the early '80s. They also predicted U.S. unemployment will likely double by late next year but at the same time they point to sales figures showing consumers are spending more on tech than other class of consumer product.

It was my first visit to CES and while chatting with an entrepreneur from Phoenix — who's hoping to launch his own product — he observed, "It all seems like a lot of tinkering with old ideas."

Attendees check out the latest in digital radio techonology at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

Now maybe he was a bit harsh, but not by much. Plenty was written about things like new super-thin Plasma TV screens, HD radio, Internet radio in your car, a Wi-Fi card for your digital camera allowing instant uploads to the web, new headphones, 3D-TV, e-books, a Smartphone from Palm called the Pre, all of them modifications, upgrades and refinements. Even a wrist mounted cell phone and Polaroid's new camera with built-in printer are recycled ideas.

The industry predicts four major trends for 2009:

1. Green tech will sell. People will pay extra if a product benefits the environment.
2. We will see rapid development of new ways to communicate with computers; less mouse and keyboard, and more talking, touching screens and gesturing to make your computer work.
3. Embedded Internet, meaning more devices linked to the web, especially your TV.
4. More of these devices will be wireless and more of them will go into your car.

What will you be buying? The industry association says OLED TV screens will top the growth list in revenues followed by e-readers, flash camcorders and netbooks.

Next week I'll look at some of the interesting products that may just make it this year and the view from Ottawa firms that were at the show.

Website of the week:
nethope.org
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Obama's house

President-elect Barack Obama's officials confirm that the Obamas have chosen Los Angeles-based interior designer Michael Smith to decorate the private quarters of the White House, CNN reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Home decor amidst a recession

HomeScape

Sylvia Putz
metronews.ca/homescape

Freshening up with a coat of paint is one of the least expensive decor updates you can do.

With all the doom and gloom economic forecasts for 2009, home decor predictions are wildly divergent. Will home decorators decide to paint their homes brightly to dispel the gloom, or will they simply avoid spending any money on home decor?

The nation's ailing financial health has impacted people's well-being in many different ways. But one thing is clear: You can't control what happens outside, but in your home, you are the boss.

And it doesn't have to be expensive. You can rearrange your furniture and pick up accessories from thrift stores, or you can visit expensive designer shops for selected items.

So in the spirit of the times, and with an eye to new trends, here are some decor 2009 suggestions.

If you're looking for inexpensive, freshening up with a coat of paint is one of the least expensive decor updates you can do. And many decor forecasters are calling for a return to safe neutral colours on walls, with bright vibrant shades as accents. This way, you can switch around your accessories and fabrics without too much effort or cash needed to coordinate.

Brightly coloured accents bring lightness and cheer into your home at a time when the outside world may feel grey and depressed. Citrus shades of orange, red and yellow may be the just the thing for those of you who are feeling down. For an example of this approach, check out IKEA's bright orange kitchen cabinets in its new 2009 catalogue.

Or you may go to the other end of the spectrum and turn your home into a sanctuary, an oasis of soothing and calming design, colour and sound as an antidote against the struggling world outside. Think earth tones and natural materials. Living responsibly and selecting items that have been harvested and constructed with due diligence for the state of the earth and the workers who produce the goods can help to put the mind at ease as well.

But if you need a new look, consider buying snazzy accessories instead of spending piles of cash on new furniture or carpets. These relatively inexpensive additions, such as vases, sculptural objects or throw pillows can really add a pop of interest, and change a non-descript decor into one that shines.

And speaking of pillows and throws, check out the over-the-top designer pillows that are appearing. These pillows are going in the direction of designer clothing, with belts, buckles, buttons, sequins, pleated or intricately folded fabric and metallic paints.

Perhaps we need a touch of glamour or decadence in tough times. If you like this approach, the trick is to outfit your place with a few well-placed luxurious accessories, rather than spending on big-ticket items. Elaborately decorated pillows and other luxurious touches can add a feeling of elegance and glamour, a la Hollywood in the '30s or '40s perhaps. Think sumptuous shiny fabrics and shimmering finishes, such as bedspreads or throws draped over the sofa. Just don't overdo it, or you may end up with a living space that exudes a bordello-like vibe.

Sylvia Putz is a journalist with an interest in decor and design. She's written for the TV show Arresting Design; sputz@arrestingdesign.com.

Survey says

What we'll see less of in 2009 — a survey

- Wall-to-wall carpeting
- Oversized, overstuffed furniture
- Furniture in solid, striped and patterned combinations;
- Granite and stainless steel countertops
- Dark coloured walls

What we'll see more of in 2009 — a survey

- Neutral wall colours
- Eye-popping citrus shades such as orange, yellow or coral are popular as accents
- Bamboo flooring
- Glass tiles
- Metallic finishes on fabric and wallpaper

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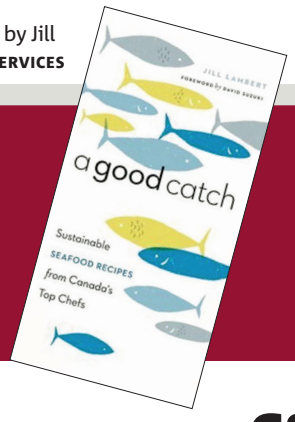
Purchase online
A Good Catch, Sustainable Seafood Recipes from Canada's Top Chefs by Jill Lambert is available online at Amazon.ca from $15.72. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Food



"A Good Catch by Jill Lambert culled recipes from Canadian chefs, from a Taco Trout Bake to Grilled Swordfish with Forbidden Black Rice and Soy Emulsion."
Barb Holland/for Metro Canada

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

Not always more fish in the sea

À **la** carte

Barb Holland
Metro Food Writer

When we eat fish, are we making good choices for healthy oceans? SeaChoice, Canada's Seafood Guide (pictured), is available in full — including a full legend to explain each entry — at seachoice.org.

Many of us are eating more fish and seafood for its health benefits, but are we making good choices for healthy oceans?

SeaChoice, Canada's Seafood Guide, is a handy wallet card that lists categories such as Best Choice, Some Concerns and Avoid for all fish and seafood. For a copy of the guide, go to seachoice.org and carry it with you to help make sustainable seafood choices when shopping or eating out. Due to sometimes inadequate labelling, be prepared to ask questions such as: Where is it from? Is this fished or farmed?

A new book by Vancouver-based writer, Jill Lambert, A Good Catch, Sustainable Seafood Recipes from Canada's Top Chefs (Greystone Books/Douglas & McIntyre), $25, provides insight and information. It begins with a discussion about fish on making good fish decisions, choosing, preparing and storing fish and seafood; basic cooking directions and a quite extensive Species by Species Sustainability Guide (done by the David Suzuki Foundation and SeaChoice Canada). The book also suggests substitutions for fish that may not fit into the SeaChoice guidelines, so you can still cook your stand-by recipes responsibly.

Salmon and Edamame Salad with Wasabi Mayonnaise

From Karen Barnaby, The Fish House in Stanley Park, Vancouver, this easy salad calls for canned salmon. Look for wild Pacific salmon as the Best Choice. Makes 4 servings.

INGREDIENTS:
- 1 can (7 oz/213 g) pink salmon, well drained
- 1 cup (250 m) shelled edamame (fresh soy beans), cooked and chilled
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) finely diced celery
- 2 green onions, white and green parts, thinly sliced
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) mayonnaise
- 2 tsp (10 ml) wasabi paste (or more to taste)
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) sesame seeds, toasted, for garnish
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) julienned fresh ginger, for garnish

METHOD:
In a bowl, combine salmon, edamame, celery and green onions.

In another bowl, combine mayonnaise and wasabi paste (to taste). Gently fold into salmon mixture. Cover and refrigerate to allow flavours to blend, about 30 minutes.

To serve, divide salad between four plates and garnish with sesame seeds and ginger.

Tips:
- Edamame are green soybeans usually found frozen in pods or shelled. Cook according to package directions, usually about 4 to 6 minutes in boiling water. Drain, rinse with cold water and remove beans from pods.

Barb Holland is a professional home economist and food writer who believes in shopping locally and in season.

Best Choice
Catfish (US) *farmed*
Caviar/ Sturgeon *farmed*
Clams *farmed*
Cod: Pacific (US) *bottom longline, jig, pot*
Crab: Dungeness
Fish sticks: Pollock (AK)
Haddock (Canada) *bottom longline*
Hake: Pacific (Canada)
Herring: Atlantic (US), Pacific (Canada)
Imitation crab: Pollock (AK)
Lobster: American (Atl. Canada)
Lobster: Rock, Spiny (Aus., US, Western Baja)
Mussels *farmed*
Oysters *farmed*
Pollock (AK)
Sablefish (AK, BC)
Sardine: Brisling, Sprats (US)
Shrimp/ Prawn: Sidestripe, Spot (BC) *trap-caught*
Swordfish (Atl. Canada) *harpoon* ◇
Tilapia (US) *farmed*
Trout: Rainbow *land-based farmed*
*Tuna *troll-caught* ◇

Some Concerns
Catfish/ Tra/ Basa (Int'l) *farmed*
Clams: Atlantic soft shell (Atl.), Geoduck (US Pac.) *wild*
Cod: Pacific (Canada, US) *trawl*
Crab: King, Snow (Canada, US)
Haddock (US) *bottom longline*
Halibut: Atlantic, Pacific (Canada) *bottom longline* ◇
Lingcod ◇
Lobster: American (US Atl.)
Mahi mahi/ Dolphinfish/ Dorado
Mussels *wild*
Octopus (US)
Oysters *wild* ⊖
Sablefish (CA, OR, WA)
**Salmon: Pacific *wild*
Scallops: Sea (NE Atl. US)
Shark (US Pac.) ◇
Shrimp (Atl., Gulf of Mexico) *trawled*
Sole (Pac.) ⊖
Squid: Jumbo, Humboldt, Shortfin, Summer (Int'l)
Swordfish (US Atl.) *pelagic longline* ◇
Trout: Rainbow (Canada) *open-cage farmed*
*Tuna (US) *pelagic longline* ◇

Avoid
Caviar/ Sturgeon (Int'l) *wild* ⊖ ◇
Chilean seabass/ Patagonian toothfish ◇
Clams (Atl.) *dredged*
Cod: Atlantic
Crab: King (Russia)
Flounder/ Sole: (US Atl.), Arrowtooth (Canada) ⊖
Grenadier
Haddock *trawl*
Halibut: Atlantic (US) *trawl* ◇
Lobster: Spiny (Int'l except Aus. + US)
Monkfish ◇
Orange roughy ◇
Rockfish/ Snapper *trawl* ◇
Salmon: Atlantic, Chinook *farmed* ⊖
Scallops: Sea (Canada, Mid-Atl. US)
Shark (Atl., Int'l) ◇
Shrimp/ Prawn: Tiger, White (Int'l)
Swordfish (Canada, Med., SE Atl.) *pelagic longline* ◇
Tilapia (China, Taiwan) *farmed*
*Tuna (Pac. Int'l) *pelagic longline* ◇
Tuna: Bluefin ◇

LiquidAssets

Peter Rockwell
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

Comfort wines

While I've never needed any added incentive, the recent blend of crappy weather and an even crappier economy have surely been enough to drive even the most determined teetotaler to drink.

With the way the world's spinning lately the search for wines that combine a decent price with drinkable juice isn't just a quest for the thrifty — it's a necessity for almost everybody.

In times like these I look to my list of comfort wines; those that wrap my palate in consistent familiarity without picking my pocket.

To find a great red deal look down, way down, to South America. The **2008 Cono Sur Pinot Noir** ($11.45 - $12.99) from Chile is a classy little pinot with a light and juicy strawberry/cherry fruit flavour that ends with a soft, milk chocolaty finish. Its refreshing acidity makes it a great match for grilled salmon or a zingy tomato sauce.

Prefer white? Try Australia's **2008 Yellow Tail Pinot Grigio** ($10.95 - $11.99), a clean, lemon-meets-lime fruit fest with a lean, green flavour and zesty, citrus aroma that's a nice partner for grilled shrimp (or any other fish with a shell) and just about any poultry dish.

Prices reflect the range across the country. Some products may not be available in all provinces.

Peter Rockwell is the everyman's wine writer, working in the liquor industry for more than 25 years and travelling the globe looking for something to fill his glass and put into words.

United States
Presidential Inauguration

Obama's pick

- During an appearance on a public television restaurant review show years ago, the next president raved about the peach cobbler served at a diner in his Chicago neighbourhood, the Dixie Kitchen and Bait Shop. For a recipe of the very same Peach Cobbler dessert, visit metronews.ca.

Canadian Living magazine is on sale now!

Canadian Living recipe of the month

Linguine with Clams

INGREDIENTS:
- 1 1/2 lb (750 g) fresh littleneck clams
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) dry white wine
- 8 oz (250g) linguine
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) chopped flat-leaf parsley
- Pinch each salt and hot pepper flakes
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) butter

METHOD:
Scrub clams; discard any that do not close when tapped.

In saucepan, cover and steam clams and wine over high heat until clams open, 4 to 5 minutes. Strain into bowl, reserving broth. Discard any clams that do not open. Set aside.

In large pot of boiling salted water, cook linguine according to package directions until tender but firm; drain.

Meanwhile, in skillet, heat oil over medium-low heat; cook garlic, parsley, salt and hot pepper flakes, stirring occasionally, until garlic is softened but not browned, about 2 minutes.

Add reserved clam broth; bring to boil. Add linguine; boil on high, stirring often, until about 3 tbsp (45 mL) liquid remains, about 2 minutes.

Add clams; toss until heated through. Stir in butter.

For more great recipes, visit metronews.ca.

Black-and-white haute couture

Pandas turned from China's national icon into a fashion statement as New York designer Vivienne Tam showcased black-and-white outfits at a Beijing show to raise funds for the endangered animal's quake-stricken habitat. **REUTERS**

Style

Makeup good enough for a Dame

Renowned for her lilac hair and rhinestone-encrusted eye glasses, Dame Edna can now add MAC Cosmetics muse to her long list of accomplishments. With packaging as mirthful as the stage icon herself (each item includes a design of her whimsical eye wear), the colours are meant to portray Edna's over-the-top personality as well. The collection includes lipsticks, lip glosses, eye shadows, hi-light powder and nail lacquers, ranging from $11 to $39. Available at MAC counters across the country and at maccosmetics.com. METRO NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE COLACINO, ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Canuck designs on Obama gown

Four of the country's top fashion gurus sketch looks for the next first lady

In less than a week's time, the question that has preoccupied style watchers for months will finally be answered. In the meantime, how about one final game of What-Will-Michelle-Obama-Wear-To-The-Inaugural-Ball?

Though her ultimate pick will almost certainly be an American, some of Canada's top fashion designers agreed to play along in case the future first lady feels a sudden urge to do a little cross-border shopping.

Wayne Clark, David Dixon, Andy Thé-Anh and Joeffer Caoc have each sketched an original gown for Mrs. O to wear on Jan. 20 when she and the new president will play host to seven balls in Washington, D.C., and attend three others on the night he's sworn in. The first lady's gown is typically long and ornate.

"There are periods when this dress is just covered in decoration — fringe and sequins and fur and beads and lace," says Lisa Kathleen Graddy, curator of the First Ladies Exhibition at the Smithsonian Institution, where 14 inaugural dresses are on display.

United States
Presidential
Inauguration

Speculators predict Obama will spurn doodads in favour of a refined approach à la Jackie Kennedy in her simple, white Oleg Cassini dress. It had beading on the bodice but it was subtle beneath a chiffon overlay.

Mary Tomer, a 27-year-old account planner with British advertising agency Bartle Bogle Hegarty, has been tracking the future first lady's style since the Democratic National Convention last summer. With backing from her employer, the Manhattan-based blogger launched a website, Mrs-O.org, that follows the whos and whats of Obama's wardrobe.

For the inaugural ball, Tomer picks the New Jersey-born designer Narciso Rodriguez, whom Obama wore on election night — to mixed reviews.

"I know a lot of people are of the mind that it's going to be a bold, jewel-toned colour," Tomer says, "but my hunch is a winter white." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

WAYNE CLARK/FOR TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Wayne Clark

- Clark channelled Halston for his interpretation of the inaugural gown. "She's a very clean silhouette kind of person. I don't see her in strapless but I thought one shoulder would be great for her."
- The dress is finished in a four-ply, satin-back crepe cut on the bias. The ostrich feathers are part of a removable kimono jacket. "She can't wear fur, or PETA will be all over her." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

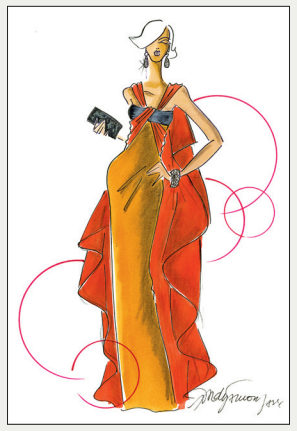
DAVID DIXON/FOR TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

David Dixon

- Dixon was inspired by Jacqueline Kennedy and Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, the first lady of France. "Oleg Cassini kept it very streamlined and simple for Jackie O. It was always very put-together."
- The outer coat is a heavy silk taffeta in a matte finish — not too shiny. He notes the colour is flattering. "Bruni has worn a lot of that regal purple and so has Michelle Obama." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Andy Thé-Anh

- "Usually we always think she should wear red or purple. I wanted to try something different."
- The body of the dress is finished in an amber stretch satin charmeuse. The black bandeau top is in a satin taffeta. Flowing silk chiffon in a fiesta colour completes the draping.
- "I see her wearing something very contemporary, very modern but classy." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



ANDY THÉ-ANH/FOR TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Joeffer Caoc

- Caoc tries for an effect that will catch people off guard. "I think unexpected is a good word. As much as I wanted her husband to win, I didn't think he would."
- The overall look: "Really clean. No accessories. A reflection, pretty much, on what I do." The boyfriend jacket is satin: the fuchsia dress is draped jersey. The colour combination is "really current and modern." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

JOEFFER CAOC/FOR TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Let your garments help you fake it

Style **File**

Kim Elbo

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ask kim

I am looking for a product that will keep my closet fresh and free of smell.

Home Outfitters carries a product called Febreze Closet Renewables; they're shelves that keep your clothes organized and free of that old musty smell. NaturzAire also carries an odour-absorbing product perfect for your closet.

Vancouver's Kim Elbo has a passion for fashion. Here she shares the latest style tips.

$38

Tight Top
Designer: Smart Set
Shop: Smart Set
Address: Various Locations
smartset.ca

$72

Slim Skirt
Designer: Skyler
Shop: Skyler
Address: Various Locations
skyler.ca

My favourite

$140

Booty Jean
Designer: Mavi
Shop: Mavi
Address: Various Locations
mavi.com

$16

Top Shape
Designer: Joe Fresh
Shop: Superstore
Address: Various Locations
joe.ca

My favourite

$20

Hot Pants
Designer: Twin Syndrome
Shop: Twigg & Hottie
twinsyndrome.com

$35

Taut Tights
Designer: La Vie en Rose
Shop: La Vie en Rose
Address: Various Locations
lavieenrose.com

Outerwear Shapewear

Face it: Some of us weren't born with a perfectly proportionate body, but that's okay when we've got garments that make it look like we were. Falsely flaunt it with the built-in backside padding jeans by Mavi. The jeans will lift, extend and enhance your derriere. Flatten out your midsection with the Smart Set top — the ribbed vertical lines will tighten and elongate your torso while the free-flowing top and sleeves will help balance out the look. The convertible skirt/top by Skyler will keep things tucked in and hidden with its strong spandex and A-line cut.

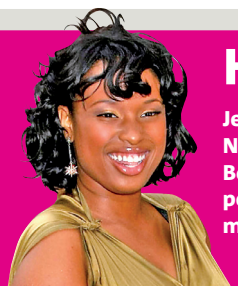
accessory: **Palmers, $3.99, contains 100 per cent pure cocoa butter and antioxidants with vitamins A, C and E. Available at Shoppers Drug Mart.**

Body Shapewear

Perhaps it will take you longer than a couple of weeks to check off that New Year's resolution of shedding 10 to 20 pounds. So in the meantime, why not fool everyone else into thinking that your 30-minute, once-weekly gym sessions are actually paying off? Friends will never know that your undergarments are actually doing the work. Hide your muffin top with hot pants from Twin Syndrome, visibly lean up those thighs with tights from La Vie en Rose, and take in a little tummy tuck with the Joe Fresh shaper top.

Ricardo Montalban dies
Actor Ricardo Montalban, best known as the mysterious Mr. Roarke on the popular television series Fantasy Island, died yesterday at the age of 88, a Los Angeles city official said. **REUTERS**

Entertainment



Her big gig
Jennifer Hudson will sing the National Anthem at the Super Bowl in what will be her first performance since her family murder tragedy last October.
PEOPLE.COM

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Evolution of the jam band

Gym Class Heroes stitch together diverse sounds

ROB MCMAHON
for Metro Canada

WARNER MUSIC PHOTO

Gym Class Heroes blend hip hop, rock, R&B, soul and funk on their latest album, The Quilt.

Imagine an album that stitches together musical genres, multi-generational guest-stars and pop-punk style, and you have The Quilt.

On that album, Gym Class Heroes (GCH) play out like a poppier Roots: A jam-band fronted by a rapper but that aims at the Fall Out Boy demographic. Hip-hop purists hear the band's guitars and drums, while the pop-punks focus on their raps. But no matter the milieu, the band doesn't tailor their performance to the crowd.

"We don't play differently, but are perceived differently," said drummer Matt McGinley. "At the end of the day, whether it's rock, hip hop, R&B, soul or funk, all the influences we find within ourselves come out when we play."

As with any group that wears influences squarely on both sleeves, GCH must tackle the ensuring debate: Is their music original or derivative? McGinley, when asked if he thinks artists are comfortable wearing their influences proudly, said that's true to a certain extent.

"It's all about being inspired and influenced by somebody — (and) to be using (these influences) in new and creative ways, rather than being obvious," he said.

When the band started out 10 years ago, McGinley was drawn to jazz and funk percussion, while founding member Travis McCoy delivered his verses through raps. McGinley learned to play drums to ?uestlove's work on The Root's album Things Fall Apart, and the duo looked to that group's innovative approach to rap music and ability to jam out their songs.

"We didn't set out to be a hip-hop band — we were just kids who wanted to make noise in our parent's living rooms. Over the years we moved towards that kind of sound," said McGinley. "It's cool to be able to showcase your musical chops and abilities as a band … but it's all about what can enhance the song."

MusicReviews
music@metronews.ca

A.C. Newman
Album: Get Guilty
Label: Last Gang Records
Rating: ◍◍◍½

IN THE WORLD OF Canadian indie darlings, A.C. Newman maybe the darlingest. The hipsters are already atwitter about this second solo release from the creative light behind the New Pornographers. But let's keep our feet on the ground. This is not an earth-shaking epic that is going to change the face of alt-rock. It is a charming, intelligent album with roots squarely in the '60s English psychedelic scene, offering up nods to acid-era Donovan Leitch, and early David Bowie.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

GlobalStyle
Kenya Hunt
Exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle

See complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at metronews.ca/movies

IntelleVision
Rick McGinnis
Read it at metronews.ca

OT		Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
1/15/09	primetime	265	353	2	TVO	Icebreakers		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		After the Deluge (N)		Secret Life of the Brain		Agenda-Paikin
		211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Bones (HDTV PA) (N)		The Office (N)	Billable Hours	The Unit "Sex Trade" (N)		News (N)
		-	-	5	SRC	Virginie (SC)	Infoman (SC)	Enquête (HDTV) (SC)		M pour musique (N) (SC)		Le Téléjournal et Les Nou		La Zone
		209	342	6	CHRO	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Don't Forget the Lyrics!		Eleventh Hour "H2O" (N)		(10:01) Private Practice (N)		News (N)
		196	311	7	CTV	Hollywood	etalk	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Grey's Anatomy (N)		(10:01) ER (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
		208	303	8	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	The Nature of Things (N)		Doc Zone (HDTV) (N)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
		-	360	9	NBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Name Is Earl	Kath & Kim (N)	The Office (N)	30 Rock	(10:01) ER (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
		117	713	10	TVA	Petit monde de Laura Cadieux		Juste pour rire (SC)		Juste pour rire (SC)		TVA 22 heures	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
		-	-	11	QS	Grande fille	Un monde bête	*Le Sous-sol de la peur* ★★ (1991, Horreur) Brandon Adams.				Cent dix pour cent (SC)		Msr Showbiz
		137	763	12	TFO	Panorama		Pointe-aux-chimères		*Le Quai des brumes* ★★★ (1938, Drame)			Y'a pas d'âge	Volt
		-	362	13	CBS	Dr. Phil (HDTV) (N)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		(10:01) Eleventh Hour		Two/Half Men
		216	395	14	OMN2	Cold Case "Static"		News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
		214	344	15	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Ugly Betty (N)		30 Rock	30 Rock	Murdoch Mysteries		News (N)
		115	343	16	CFMT	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere II	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
		218	345	18	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	Name Is Earl	Kath & Kim (N)	*The House Next Door* (2006, Suspense) Lara Flynn Boyle.				News (N)
		-	361	20	ABC	News (N)	Entertainment	Ugly Betty (N)		Grey's Anatomy (N)		(10:01) Private Practice (N)		News (N)
		512	396	24	CPAC	La Période de questions		Heure polit.	L'Heure politique				Revue	Période-quest.
		651	355	25	CTS	Happy Days	Laverne	Michael Coren Show		100 Huntley Street		Life Today	This Is Day	John Hagee
		-	365	36	FOX	TMZ (N)	Seinfeld	Bones (HDTV PA) (N)		Kitchen Nightmares (N)		News (N)		News
		-	-	64	PBS	Business Rpt.	Energy	Yes, Minister	Time Goes By	Monarch of the Glen		Mystery! "Poirot" (DVS)		Tavis Smiley
		205	312	104	CTV	Hollywood	etalk	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Grey's Anatomy (N)		(10:01) ER (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Newman	The Hour Marlee Matlin.		CBC News: The National		The Nature of Things		National
		500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	sports	406	417	27	net	Darts World Premier League.				Countdown to UFC 93		Sportsnet Connected (HDTV)		Hockey Central
		126	730	28	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
		400	280	30	TSN	That's Hockey!	NHL Hockey Toronto Maple Leafs at Carolina Hurricanes. (HDTV) (Live)					SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)		
		410	403	52	SCR	Score on NFL	Cabby Unlimit	NBA Basketball Cleveland Cavaliers at Chicago Bulls. (Live)					NBA Basketball	
		411	457	56	OLN	Bounty Hunter	Dakar Rally	Survivorman		Mantracker		Bounty Hunter	Dakar Rally	Survivorman
		417	406	59	SC	Barrett-Jackson Automobile Auction (HDTV) Thursday action from Scottsdale, Ariz. (Live)								
	family	554	544	48	TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6teen	Sixteen	Misadventures	Futurama	The Critic	Robot Chicken	Undergrads
		557	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
		551	542	65	YTV	Scorpion	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Adrenaline Proj	Prank Patrol	Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.
	cable variety	570	580	29	MM	mmmtop	Back In	Enrique Iglesias-Belgium		Listed (Part 1 of 2)		Tommy Lee	Where You At	Celeb Wrestle
		615	520	31	A&E	The First 48 "Gone"		The First 48 (HDTV) (N)		The First 48 (HDTV) (N)		The Beast "Pilot" (N)		The Beast
		628	584	32	SPKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		TNA iMPACT! (HDTV) (N)				CSI: Crime Scn
		521	560	34	TLC	LA Ink (HDTV)		Overhaulin' (HDTV)		Saw for Hire	Saw for Hire	LA Ink "66 Nikkis" (N)		Saw for Hire
		145	761	35	TV5	Fourchette et sac à dos		Club social		Envoyé spécial			Cité guide	Journal TV5
		616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		About a Girl	Love-Death	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	*American Pie 2* ★★ (2001, Comedy)		
		620	523	40	BVO	Camera	Snapshot	Bathroom Divas-Opera Star		*Touch of Pink* (2004, Romance-Comedy)			Bravonews	Law & Order
		520	505	42	DIS	Daily Planet (N)		Fireball of Tutankhamun		Secrets of the Crystal Cave		MythBusters		Daily Planet
		575	583	43	CMT	CMT Star	CMT Star	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Cheerleaders
		601	562	45	SLC	Til Debt-Part	Rich Poor	Bulging Brides	Bulging Brides	Last 10	Last 10	The Biggest Loser		ET Canada
		625	548	46	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	VIP	Gong Show	Daily Show
		294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	Friends	Friends	*Shadow Conspiracy* ★ (1997, Suspense) Charlie Sheen.				Family Guy
		600	564	49	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Holmes on Homes		The Fix	Disaster DIY	Home to Flip	Real Renos	Holmes-Homes
		627	528	50	SPC	Lost		Lost		Rabbit Fall	Rabbit Fall	Ghost Hunters International		Stargate SG-1
		581	566	53	MTV	Mom & Dad	After	MTV News	Cribs	The Real World		True Life		MTV Live
		618	524	54	TROP	Make or Break	Naked Fashion	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy	Married... With	Seinfeld
		522	506	55	HIS	NCIS "Witch Hunt"		Lost Worlds		Deep Wreck Mysteries		NCIS "Witch Hunt"		Ancestors
		129	773	60	CD	Biographies "Angèle Coutu"		Alliance meurtrière (HDTV)		Les Procureurs		Histoires de crimes		Catastrophe
		261	394	61	V	Murder, She Wrote		Wait for God	Keeping Up	*Crossing Delancey* ★★★ (1988, Romance-Comedy)				Poltergeist
		602	567	62	W	Will & Grace	Friends	Divine Design	House	Confidential	Save Us-House	Divine Design	House	Maxed Out
		269	350	70	APTN	Suaangan	Wapos Bay	By the Rapids	renegadepress	*North* ★★ (1994, Comedy-Drama) Elijah Wood, Bruce Willis.				Rez Rides
		621	527	71	TLK	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		TMZ (N)	etalk	Star Yearbook		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
		603	561	95	FN	Chef at Home	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover		Unwrapped	Secret Life of	Family	Glutton	Ace of Cakes

critics'corner

The Gong Show With Dave Attell
The classics never die, but some of them should. It was a great day when CBS resurrected the classy "Password." The return of this tacky amateur show? Not so much. In the 1970s, it was a way for those who thought they had talent — or knew they didn't but just wanted to be on TV — to get their 15 seconds of fame. With the reality-TV explosion, however, there are gazillions of ways to score that face time, rendering this show a cheesy and occasional sleazy anachronism. 10:30 PM on 46 COM

The Nature of Things
March 24 will be the 20th anniversary of the Exxon Valdez oil spill, and as the new episode "Black Wave: The Legacy of the Exxon Valdez" reveals, the people of Prince William Sound are still feeling the effects. The massive cleanup effort and the compensation paid to fishermen weren't enough; it appears only a time machine could restore the environment and the economy to what they were before the accident. 8 PM on 8 CBC

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Baldwin the broadcaster

Alec Baldwin has landed a job as a radio host. He has been offered the role as host for the New York Philharmonic's national radio broadcasts. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Celebrity Buzz

Kanye's unlikely style inspiration

FASHION Kanye West has revealed the inspiration behind his fashion: Gay men, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The website says an old video clip of Kanye has been unearthed and in it the rapper reveals that he often checks out what gay men are wearing.

"Gays really know how to dress," he states. They are not his only inspiration though. He also reveals: "I feel like Japanese dress really good too."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Heche has the baby boy blues

BABY Anne Heche has offered some blue clues of the gender of her baby, people.com reports.

At the Boom Boom Room Children's Gifting Wonderland in Los Angeles, the actress and her boyfriend — Nova Scotian James Tupper — chose a pair of Robeez Guitar leather booties in pastel blue, a dozen blue Happy Heinys reusable diapers and a blue MiGi baby blanket, the website says.

"She told people she was having a boy," says a source. "They were so excited to be picking out things for a little boy."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Fairytale romance over for David

RELATIONSHIP Intouchweekly.com is reporting the once fairy-tale romance of American Idol stars Kimberly Caldwell and David Cook is kaput. A rep for Kimberly confirms, "Kimberly and David ended their relationship just before the holidays. The couple remain good friends and being very private people, appreciate their privacy at this time."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Kate's body gets rave Hollywood reviews

PEOPLE Oprah Winfrey is proud of Kate Winslet's real golden globes, usmagazine.com reports.

"I love the fact that you have real breasts, 'cause in all the breast scenes, your breasts do what real breasts do," she said Tuesday on The Oprah Winfrey Show.

"There's that wonderful thing, you know, if you are a woman, you're lying on your back, your breasts they go to — they part — but if you look at a woman with not real breasts, their breasts are sticking straight up," she told the actress, who won two Golden Globes Sunday.

"That's how you know. God bless your real breasts!"

Halle Berry also finds Winslet stunning: She recently remarked that "Kate Winslet is always naked, sitting on a toilet, or running buck naked. I want to be the kind of actress who can really be comfortable with my body like that."

"That's so amazing," Winslet — who bares it all in her new drama The Reader — recently told Parade. "That is worth the pain! I am thrilled to hear someone like Halle say something like that. But what I would want to say to her is, 'Well, you can,' because all I do is say, 'I don't give a —!'"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Media twisted my words: Nicole

MEDIA Nicole Kidman claims the media has twisted her words, femalefirst.co.uk says. After reports that she is unhappy with her performance in new movie Australia, she insists that her comments have been hugely misinterpreted, the website adds.

The Moulin Rouge star said in an interview with Sydney radio station 2DayFM, that she "can't look at this movie and be proud of what I've done." She added that she couldn't "connect to it emotionally."

However, the actress is adamant that the she was in fact referring to her whole body of work and not just this production. She claims that she can never bear to watch herself on screen.

A representative for the actress told Australian newspaper The Sydney Morning Herald: "It is quite ridiculous for anyone to believe that reports if they listened to the actual interview. It's hard to believe some of the world's media have fallen for it."

The article printed in Australian newspapers stated: "Miss Kidman, who attended the premiere with country singer husband Keith Urban, said: 'I can't look at this movie and be proud of what I've done. I sat there and I looked at Keith and went, 'Am I any good in this movie?'"

The star appears opposite Hugh Jackman in the newest tale by Baz Luhrmann, which opened up last month to mixed reviews. METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

No love for U.S. theatre audiences, Daniel says

CAREER Daniel Radcliffe has blasted American theatregoers, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

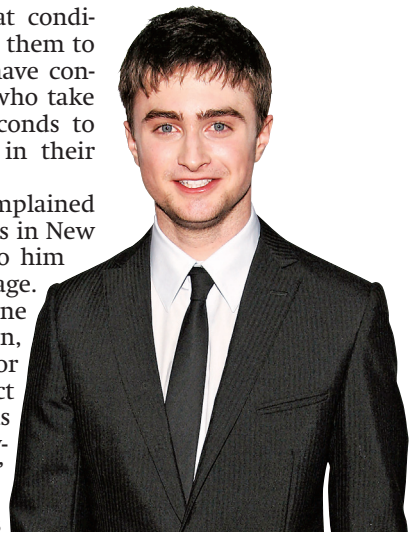
The 19-year-old actor — who is currently appearing in the Broadway play Equus — says American audiences are noisy and rude and have no respect for the arts.

The Harry Potter star said: "I would like to initiate an initiative, the Broadway Annoying Audience Member Relocation Programme, so we can lose the people whose phones ring more than three times, that have the kind of throat condition which causes them to cough like they have consumption, those who take more than 10 seconds to find whatever is in their plastic bag."

Daniel also complained audience members in New York try to talk to him while he is onstage.

He said: "One night, I hear 'Dan, Dan, look up' for the entire first act of the play. It was these four girls trying to talk to me."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Britney moving on up

PEOPLE With a new outlook for her life and career, Britney Spears is about to change addresses, people.com reports.

"I just took my babies to our new home and they loved it! I can't wait to move in," the pop star says on her website.

Spears, 27, who has visitation rights — including overnights — with her sons Jayden, 2, and Preston, 3, put her six-bedroom, six-bathroom Studio City, Calif., on the market for more than $7 million US. There was no official word on where the new house is, people.com adds.

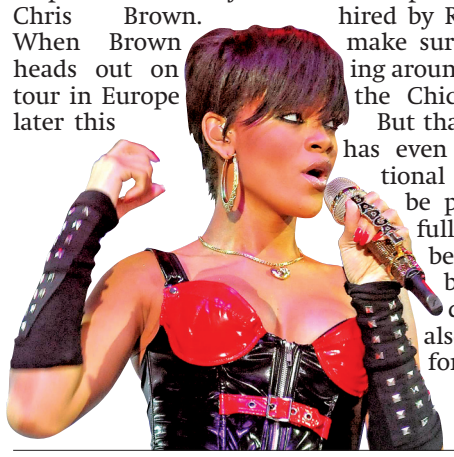
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Rihanna sends out spy

RELATIONSHIP Rihanna is apparently more than a little suspicious of boyfriend Chris Brown. When Brown heads out on tour in Europe later this month, he'll reportedly be visited periodically by a female private investigator hired by Rihanna "just to make sure he's not fooling around," a source told the Chicago Sun-Times.

But that's not all. "She has even hired an additional 'mole' who will be part of the tour full time ... a member of Chris' team, but someone he doesn't realize is also spying on him for Rihanna."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Wedding bells for Depp?

MARRIAGE Wedding bells may finally be ringing for Johnny Depp. The reclusive actor is said to be planning to marry his longtime girlfriend, Vanessa Paradis, in a private ceremony on the grounds of their $1.25 million US French estate, according to the National Enquirer.

"They're planning to marry in April," a source told the tabloid. "They want a really small wedding with only 50 family and close friends."

Depp and Paradis have been together for 10 years and have two children together, nine-year-old Lily Rose and six-year-old Jack.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Emma talks weight loss

HEALTH Baby Spice may have been nicknamed "Chubby Spice" for her ongoing weight battle, but Emma Bunton is now showing off her post-baby figure — more than a year after the birth of her son, Beau, who's now 17 months old, people.com reports.

"I put on a normal amount when I was pregnant with Beau, but it took me a year to get back to the weight I'd been before he was born," the singer, 32, tells Britain's Daily Mirror.

"I did it very naturally and slowly," she says. "I went to the gym two or three times a week and ate healthily. I breastfed, so you can't go on stupid strict diets."

People.com reports that happy with the results, Bunton is keeping in shape by heading out for a run or walking the dogs she shares with partner Jade Jones — a former singer who's now a chef at a top London hotel.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Saturday Partly cloudy -22° / -30°
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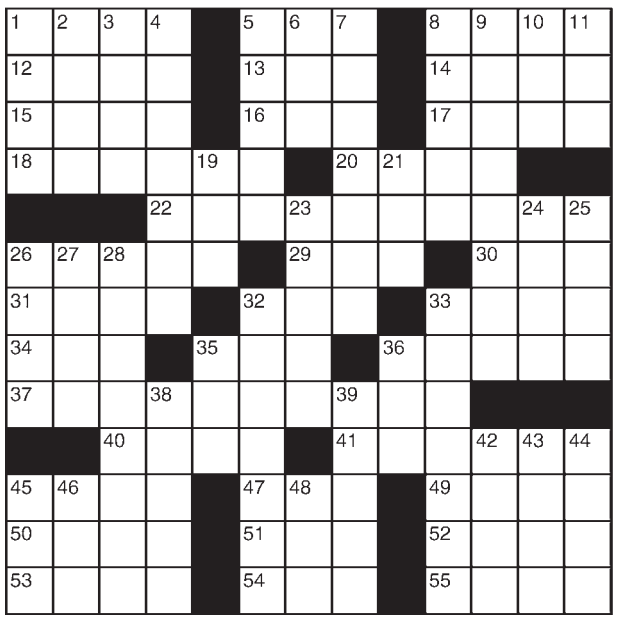
Take Five



Crossword across

1 Give the axe to
5 Prompt
8 Surrounded by
12 Jamaican citrus
13 Venomous viper
14 Arp's style
15 Handle roughly
16 Long March leader
17 Exile
18 Threatening term
20 Siestas
22 Yogi Bear's home park
26 Winter warmer
29 Type squares
30 Bagel topper
31 Partner in crime
32 More, to Manuel
33 Father (Fr.)
34 Ms. Farrow
35 Insult (Sl.)
36 Metric measure
37 Comedian
39 U-shaped yoke holder
42 Young Frankenstein role
43 Grandson of Eve
44 Portnoy's Complaint author
45 Sprite
46 Miss Piggy's pronoun
48 Palindromic title
49 Part of A.D.
50 Lummox
51 Swelled head
52 — Rhythm
53 Go angling
54 Dog's dog
55 Whip

Crossword down

1 Wrestling style
2 Culture medium
3 Hint
4 Party pooper
5 Ship of the desert
6 N.A. nation
7 People things are named for
8 Take as one's own
9 They're roomy and gloomy
10 Picks out of a lineup
11 Gram. case
19 Wet expanse
21 Foolish sort
23 Minimum
24 Standard
25 Former partners
26 Overly theatrical
27 Hodgepodge
28 Robert Graves subject
32 Faux pas
33 Triumph
35 Banned bug spray
36 CSI evidence
38 Bridge player

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	7	2				6	3	
			8		4			
5	3			2			9	1
		6	1		5	4		
1								5
		8	3		2	9		
6	8			5			4	2
			2		7			
	2	9				7	5	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

			A	I	R			V	E	G				
		L	I	M	A		D	I	N	E	D			
A	E	S	O	P			O	R	D	A	I	N		
T	A	L	K	I	N	G	T	U	R	K	E	Y		
E	K	E		D	I	G	U	P		D	A	M		
			A	L	L	Y			M	I	R	A		
	P	E	P	Y	S		F	O	R	K	S			
W	I	L	T			N	O	U	S					
A	N	I		A	T	I	L	T		C	A	P		
D	U	C	K	D	U	C	K	G	O	O	S	E		
	P	I	R	A	T	E		R	A	R	E	R		
		T	I	G	E	R		E	T	N	A			
			S	E	E			W	H	Y				

4	1	6	9	5	7	8	3	2
8	3	5	2	4	1	6	9	7
9	2	7	8	6	3	4	1	5
3	4	2	1	8	5	7	6	9
5	9	1	7	2	6	3	8	4
6	7	8	3	9	4	2	5	1
2	6	4	5	3	9	1	7	8
7	8	9	6	1	2	5	4	3
1	5	3	4	7	8	9	2	6

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Lamb Chops Provençale

INGREDIENTS:
4–6 medium floury potatoes
Salt and black pepper
2 tbsp (25 ml) olive oil
2 medium onions
2 cloves garlic
8 lamb chops, about 3 1/2 oz (100g) each
4 sprigs fresh rosemary
1/2 lb (250 g) Italian or cherry tomatoes
3/4 cup (175 ml) lamb or chicken stock
1 can (19 oz/540 ml) cannellini beans
Celery salt
4 tbsp (60 ml) milk

METHOD:
1. Bring large saucepan of water to boil. Peel and dice potatoes and add to boiling water with some salt. Reduce heat, cover pan and cook gently 15–20 minutes, or until tender.
2. Meanwhile, heat oil in large frying pan or flameproof casserole. Halve, peel and slice onions and add to the pan. Peel garlic and crush in. Fry over fairly high heat until onion has softened and is well browned, then transfer to plate and set aside.
3. Add chops to pan and fry over moderately high heat for 2–3 minutes per side, or until lightly browned.
4. While chops are cooking, rinse rosemary and strip leaves from stems. Rinse and roughly chop tomatoes.
5. Return half of onions and garlic that you set aside to lamb in pan. Add chopped tomatoes, stock and rosemary, then increase heat to high.
6. Drain cannellini beans and add to pan with celery salt and black pepper to taste. Bring to boil then simmer, uncovered, for 8–10 minutes.
7. Meanwhile, drain potatoes, mash with milk, then stir in remaining fried onion and garlic. Add a few extra chopped rosemary leaves to potatoes if you like. Season to taste and serve with lamb.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Cheer up an unreliable friend whose feelings are hurt. A naive person is attractive; but you can resist. Nature has a strange impact.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Don't believe a coward's promises. An insightful and shocking opinion will affect a project. A man will render a compromise ineffective.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
A hard-working woman is disgruntled. An eager man will take a step forward. Don't complain too hard about a pointless delay.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
A relative tells the truth about the family. A pleasant enemy takes flight. Listen politely to a man's wild ideas.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Say goodbye to a guy with a hidden agenda. A nasty job is the path to bliss. Daydreams are an absolutely delightful time-waster.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
A control freak wants to scavenge stuff. Someone will have to keep a promise and like it. The countdown begins for getting yourself on track.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Find a public meeting and take action. Be cautious but not fearful. Nostalgia is growing for the good old summertime.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Functional devices are handy in a sticky situation. Don't get too excited by a brilliant idea. You've been handling too much on your own.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Don't take any unnecessary risks when travelling. Avoid confiding in a difficult person. You'll be glad to know that a rascal is around.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
People will suspect that you're daydreaming. Request help with an unfamiliar issue. A stroke of luck will expose someone.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Depend on an elder to make the right moves. Refuse to be pinned down if a debate turns sour. Attention is focused on your appearance.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Romantic moments are postponed. Don't overplay your hand with a pompous expert. Call somebody to brighten their day.

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